Supernatural; Lucifer/Castiel; caged bird.

PG-13, dark AU where Lucifer won enough. Lucifer keeps his promises, even if Castiel doesn't want him to.

You're so delicate," Lucifer says, quiet fascination in his voice. "So fragile."

Castiel curls; whimpers as Lucifer traces where he most recently broke Castiel's bones. Shudders as Lucifer heals his bones once more.

"I wonder if they're hollow," Lucifer murmurs, uncurling Castiel with deceptively light touches. "I never break them on purpose, you know. It's similar to holding a bird too tightly. You're not aware that you're doing it until," He dips a kiss to Castiel's wrist, on the scar there (the first time Lucifer accidentally held Castiel too hard) "Crack. The damage is done."

Castiel whimpers again as Lucifer climbs up, drapes himself over Castiel's chest, plants a gentle kiss on his lips as farewell.

Lucifer whispers reassurances as he leaves, vanishes in a flutter of wings and there is a goose-down blanket left in his place to cover Castiel.

*"I'll protect you from everyone, everything, Castiel," Lucifer had said long ago. "I promise you."*

*Castiel had asked about the price, wary, knowing that he would fall too soon regardless of what he wanted.*

*"Come into my cage," Lucifer whispered. "No one can harm you here."*

*There wasn't a choice. Castiel entered of his own free will, and only Lucifer had the key, and Lucifer couldn't protect him nearly as well outside of the cage.*

*And Lucifer kept his promises.*